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21 March 1964



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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* USSR--Berlin Air Corridors: The Soviet notes of 19 March protesting "illegal" flights by US and British airlines between West Berlin and West European countries other than West Germany apparently are not intended to challenge existing regular Western air traffic to Berlin.

The notes appear aimed at blocking international flights which do not make at least transit stops in the Federal Republic. This move reflects Moscow's concern to maintain intact its long-standing position that the Berlin air corridors were "made available" to the three Western powers solely for the purpose of supplying their occupation forces in West Berlin.

The Russians feel that the extension of air service to Berlin from other countries in "Western Europe, Africa, and America" will tend to undercut this pretense that Allied use of the corridors rests on occupation rights. Since 1958 Moscow has contended that these rights would be terminated by a separate peace treaty with East Germany.

The warning conveyed by the Soviet notes that the Soviet representative in the Berlin Air Safety Center (BASC) will not guarantee the safety of "illegal" flights does not apply to long-established Western commercial traffic under what the notes term "existing international agreements." Deputy Foreign Minister Semenov took a similar position last October when he told a US official that while "present" Western air traffic in the corridors should remain unchanged, "other countries" would not be permitted to establish service to Berlin.

Moscow apparently intends to take the position that any new international flights to West Berlin that do not stop in West Germany must negotiate agreements with East German authorities. The Soviet

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notes, which were sent at the "request" of the East German Government, stated that if US and British airlines wish to establish service between West Berlin and other countries, "they must establish appropriate contact with competent organs of the GDR."

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*Libya: [The Libyan political situation apparently is becoming critical]

[Crown Prince Hassan Rida reportedly has been told that King Idris has offered his abdication to the president of parliament.]

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[] the King lost his temper with his advisers and said the country could get along as best it could without him. The government has taken Idris' action seriously enough to alert the Tripolitanian police and the army]

[Idris may feel an abdication threat will make Libya's politicians realize the dangers the country would face if his stabilizing influence were removed. Even if the King is serious in his intention, he may be persuaded to relent]

[The Crown Prince would be unlikely to keep the throne long after Idris' departure, even if the succession were not contested immediately. Arab nationalist sentiment, essentially antimonarchist, has mushroomed in Libya during the past several months. The nationalists have been especially aroused by Egyptian propaganda urging them to oust US and British military bases from the country]

[Prime Minister Muntassir's government has further encouraged the nationalists by its handling of the base issue. The government has sponsored a parliamentary resolution which leaves the date of evacuation of the bases as the only question open to negotiation. Both Muntassir and the King apparently have felt that only by taking such an attitude could they avoid risking the overthrow of the monarchy]

[In Cairo, US Ambassador Badeau is becoming increasingly concerned over "the possibility and opportunity" for Egyptian support for a republican revolt in Libya]

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Brazil: President Goulart shows no indication of letting up in his drive to force radical reforms through Congress.

The US Embassy reports that Goulart, for the first time, appears to be openly taking the lead in bringing massive outside pressure on Congress to pass his reform program. The major leftist groups in Brazil appear to have put aside their differences for the moment, and have united behind Goulart's campaign for reforms.

Goulart reportedly has also criticized the present leadership of the Social Democrats (PSD), partners with Goulart's Brazilian Labor Party in the government coalition, and intends to concentrate on obtaining the support of the left-wing PSD dissidents.

Opposition to Goulart seems to be growing, but it is disunited over the tactics to be used. A few conservative deputies are still proposing impeachment and are for transferring the congress from Brasilia to Rio de Janeiro or Sao Paulo. Some congressional moderates are inclined to make substantial concessions by way of reform legislation in order to avoid a showdown with Goulart. The US Embassy reports, however, that the consensus in Congress appears to be a determination to resist Goulart.

Governor Lacerda of Guanabara (city of Rio de Janeiro) and other conservative anti-Goulart leaders are planning a series of rallies in "defense of the congress and the constitution." A large antigovernment rally was held in Sao Paulo yesterday.

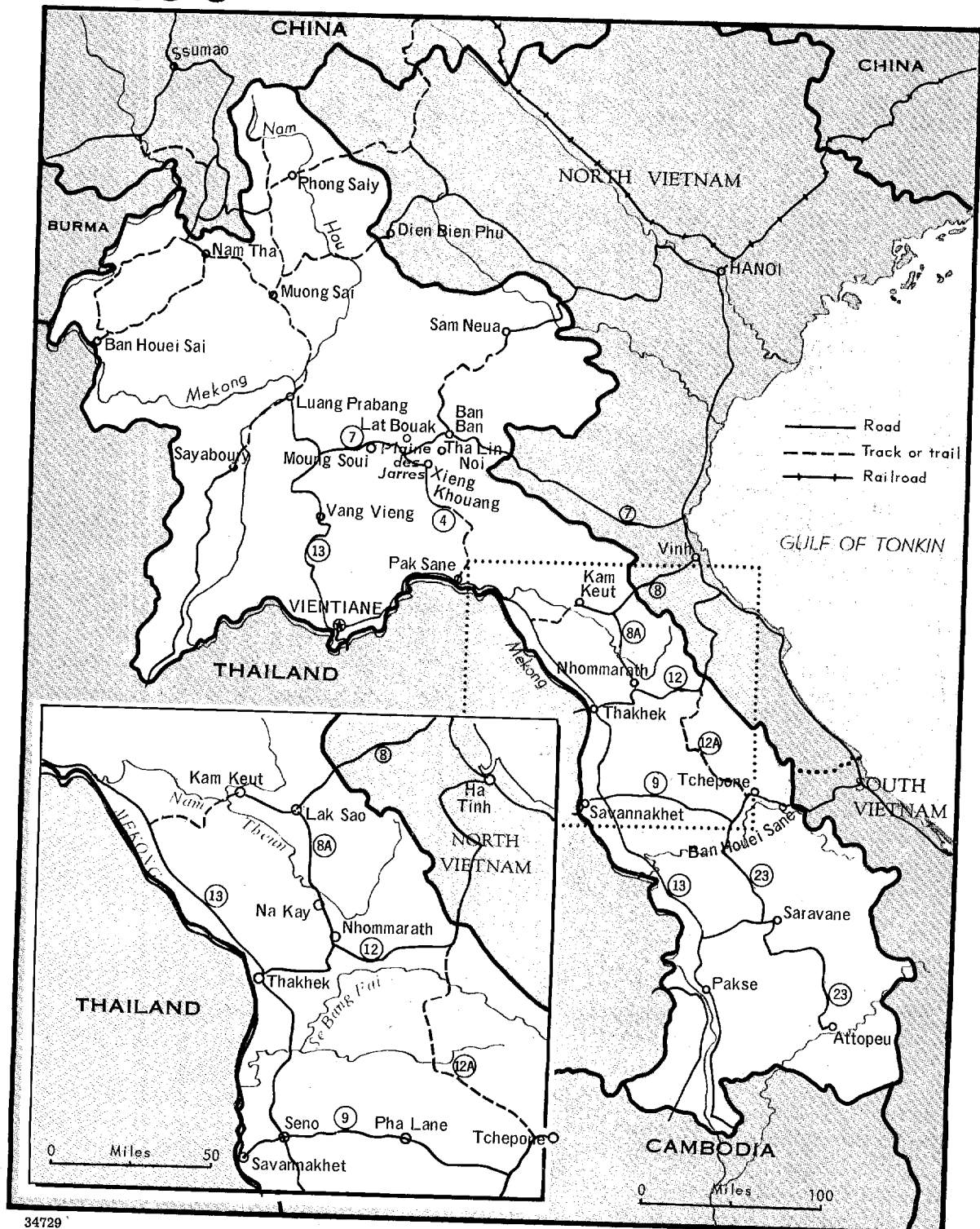
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LAOS



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NOTES

Laos: [General Phoumi, leader of the right-wing faction in Laos, is planning to intensify clearing operations against Communist units which have been active in the lowlands east of Savannakhet in central Laos. A mop-up drive launched earlier this month bogged down in the face of stiff resistance in the area just south of Pha Lane on Route 9. Phoumi now plans to renew these attacks, using bombs as well as airborne rockets, in support of his ground troops.]

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Thailand: [Prime Minister Thanom is apparently planning to force a sweeping change of personnel held over from the late Prime Minister Sarit's government. Top government officials and military officers have been maneuvering behind the scenes since Sarit's death last December, and there have been numerous coup and countercoup rumors. Since 17 March, when final rites for Sarit were completed, military and police units in the Bangkok area have been on full alert, reportedly to forestall trouble when the expected transfers of senior military officers are announced.]

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*Chile: The Radical Party national executive committee has withdrawn from the center right Democratic Front (FD) and from the Alessandri government. This action, an outgrowth of the FD's defeat in the Curico by-election, means the disappearance of the FD as a political force. The ultimate destination of the Radical vote, which comprises 20 percent of the Chilean electorate, presently is unclear.

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